Thought you might want this - HH.

ADELPHIA INQUIRER, SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 1970

Policy in Laos Assailed

Fulbright Blasts Use of CIA

WASHINGTON, March 13 (UPI).—Sen. J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), said Friday the use of Central Intelligence Agency officials in the foreign aid program in Laos is a longstanding U. S. policy whch was establshed by the Natonal Securty Council.

Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was briefed by CIA Director Richard Helms on reports that CIA agents disguised themselves as Agency for International Development (AID) officials to carry out secret military operations against Communist forces in Laos.

Fulbright, while declining to say what Helms told the committee, said on his own authority that the policy was laid down before Helms took office—and was dictated by the National Security Council. He said the CIA, itself, did not make the decision to use its operatives as military advisers to the Royal Laotian Government.

SEN. FULBRIGHT

HAILS LETTER

Fulbright told newsmen he continued to be disturbed by the use of the CIA in nonintelligence gathering roles as paramilitary forces.

But the Senator hailed the Nixon Administration's decision to drop its opposition to repeal of the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin resolution. He predicted early Senate action on the proposal by Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R., Md.).

The State Department, in a seven-page letter to Fulbright, said "We neither advocate nor oppose congressional action" on Mathias' proposal to terminate the Tonkin resolution—used by the Johnson Administration as a basis for dispatch of troops to Vietnam and three other grants of authority to the executive branch.

NEGOTIATIONS URGED

Meantime, Fulbright, Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D., W. Va.) and Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield prodded the Nixon Administration to find a negotiated solution to the entire dilemma in Southaest Asia.

Fulbright said Laos was merely a "barnacle on the side of the Vietnam war" and demonstrates that a negotiated settlement—not the Vietnamization program laid down by Mr. Nixon—was the only real solution.